

systems into party lines—with extensions in the Kremlin.

The tip-off came early in the week when a high-ranking KGB (the Soviet CIA) field man decided it was time to come in from the cold. The officer, Lt. Col. Yevgeny Yevgenyevich Runge, contacted American diplomats in Berlin and defected to the West. Runge was so important (he had been engaged in Soviet intelligence work in Germany for years) that American agents skipped the usual initial security checks and hustled him straight aboard a U.S.-bound plane.

Hot Tips: The interrogation began en route to Washington. The information that Runge had was so hot that the CIA radioed it back to Germany direct from the plane. The tips from the spy in the sky sent West German authorities into action. Within hours, police had arrested Leonore Sütterlin, 39, a secretary at Bonn's Foreign Office; her husband, Heinz, 43; Leopold Pieschel, 40, a janitor in the French Embassy; his wife, Klara; and her brother, Martin Marggraf, 41, a part-time waiter often employed at diplomatic functions.

As the story unfolded, Leonore Sütterlin turned out to be the most important—and most tragic—figure in the case. Under questioning, her good-looking husband readily admitted that he had been sent to Bonn in 1957 by the Soviets with instructions to marry a secretary with access to important information and to convert her into a spy. Sütterlin zeroed in on Leonore, a senior Foreign Office secretary in charge of the department's personnel and administrative files.

Heinz Sütterlin followed the plan to the letter. He courted Leonore and married her in 1960. Two years later, she began bringing secret documents home during her lunch break for him to photograph and relay by courier—sent, perhaps, by Runge—to the East Zone.

At first, Leonore seemed to take her arrest in stride. But she collapsed when authorities finally convinced her that her husband had married her on orders from

Moscow. The next day, guards at Cologne's Klingelpütz prison found Leonore Sütterlin hanging from a window sill by a piece of her pajamas. "A broken heart drove her to suicide," an investigator said.

The other three spies made almost as big a dent in Bonn's security as Leonore. Pieschel, according to German authorities, stole a key to the military liaison office in the French Embassy in 1958 and regularly supplied the Russians with films of all documents marked "secret" or "NATO secret." His wife turned out to be the smallest fish in the catch. But Frau Pieschel's brother, Marggraf, a waiter who spent his free time planting listening devices in important places (one of his microphones was found in the conference room of the French Embassy), more than made up for her relative inactivity.

Furor: The arrests and suicide stirred up quite a furor in Germany. Commented a columnist in the Rheinische Post: "The case contains all the aspects of modern espionage: bribery and seduction, listening devices in the vest pocket, cameras the size of matchboxes, meetings in West and East Berlin—and the usual gaps in Western security. It's surely no secret to anyone that the Federal Republic is still the favorite playground for spies."

That, of course, was the understatement of the week. The West Germans themselves estimate that there are roughly 6,000 professional spies and 10,000 "helpers" working for the East Germans and Soviets on West German soil. And if that isn't enough of a challenge, Bonn's counterespionage experts have to put up with sizable Western intelligence teams operating in the country, too. "It's hard enough keeping track of what the enemy is doing," sighed one frustrated German official last week, "but with our friends, it's impossible."

Big Haul in Bonn

The British were not the only ones preoccupied with spies last week. In West Germany, newspapers devoted banner headlines to Bonn's latest haul: a lady described as "Moscow's No. 1 agent," and a spy ring that had, in effect, converted secret West German Foreign Office and NATO communication



Sütterlin: All for love